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FLOOR DEBATE

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as a state to encourage good public health. And we shouldn't be putting in place these types of punitive measures against the people who vote for smoke-free restaurant and bar ordinances.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Thompson. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion. Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Thank you. I just wanted to respond to a couple things that I heard. And at the onset, I want to say that Senator Thompson and Preister and Beutler have been consistent in their efforts in this regard. And I don't fault them for that. I just have a philosophical difference of opinion...and Senator Aguilar as well. And I don't fault them for doing that. I just believe that government should stay out of people's lives. And that's why I'm arguing against this bill, but I am in support of this amendment. You know, I had...I keep talking about this hearing that we had in the Judiciary Committee on the statewide...basically LB 730, which says that the Clean Indoor Air Act is the law of the land. And we had, quite honestly...there was a few individuals that were opposed to my bill, and they wanted a ban, and they didn't want to trump Lincoln's law. And I appreciate them coming out and talking in that regard. But we had a lot of testimony from bar and restaurant owners who talked about how their businesses were impacted. And they consistently said--and I'm not criticizing anyone on the Lincoln City Council, but these bar and restaurant owners and business owners consistently said they were not heard, that they were not heard as it related to this ordinance. I do think that we should have a uniform policy, and I believe that this amendment tries to get us there. Could it be improved? Absolutely, as could every other piece of legislation that comes here. As Kermit Brashear often says, don't let perfection be the enemy of good. And I think this is a good amendment. But one thing I'll point out to you is, perhaps if politicians on city councils were faced with the loss of tax revenue, as they would be under this amendment, perhaps they would listen a little bit more to the business owners, who are also impacted by their conduct. It's hard for me to understand how we can say as a government, it's okay, business owner, for you to invest \$1 million or \$2 million out of your pocket to